

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-13 (Cancelled).

14 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a (meth)acrylic resin emulsion ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:

redox emulsion (co)polymerizing at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of an acrylate monomer and a methacrylate monomer, and, optionally, a further copolymerizable monomer in the presence of a vinyl alcohol polymer dispersant and a iron compound operable as a catalyst, said vinyl alcohol polymer dispersant having a degree of saponification of from 80 to 95 mol% and a degree of polymerization of from 400 to 2000, said emulsion (co)polymerizing comprising:

i) feeding into a reactor at an initial stage (1) an iron compound, (2) the monomers, (3) the vinyl alcohol polymer to form a polymerizing system and (4) a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of L(+)-tartaric acid, sodium L(+)-tartrate, and a combination thereof, and

ii) continuously or intermittently adding to said polymerizing system a peroxide,

wherein said acrylate monomer is n-butyl acrylate and said methacrylate monomer is methyl methacrylate.

15 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said peroxide is present in an amount of from ~~0.25 to 2~~ 0.1 to 5 wt%, relative to the weight of said at least one monomer ~~the monomers~~.

16 (Cancelled).

17 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said peroxide is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, ammonium persulfate, potassium persulfate, and t-butyl hydroperoxide.

18 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said peroxide is present in an amount of from 0.25 to 2 wt%, relative to the weight of said at least one monomer

~~wherein the amount of the peroxide is from 0.01 to 1 part by weight in terms of the pure content thereof, relative to 100 parts by weight of the monomer.~~

19 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the iron compound is present in an amount ranging from 1 to 50 ppm relative to the weight of said at least one monomer ~~total amount of monomer present.~~

20-22 (Cancelled).

23 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the iron compound is present in an amount of from 5 to 30 ppm, relative to the weight of said at least one monomer ~~total amount of monomer present.~~

24-26 (Cancelled).

27 (Currently Amended): The ~~(meth)acrylic resin emulsion according to claim 1~~  
method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said vinyl alcohol polymer has a degree of  
saponification of from 83 to 93 mol%.

28-30 (Cancelled).

31 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is at least  
one of ferrous chloride, ferrous sulfate, ferric chloride, ferric nitrate, or ferric sulfate.

32 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is ferrous  
chloride.

33 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is ferrous  
sulfate.

34 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is ferric  
chloride.

35 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is ferric  
nitrate.

36 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is ferric  
sulfate.

37 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer has a 1,2-glycol bond content of at least 1.9 mol%.

38 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer has a 1,2-glycol bond content of at least 1.95 mol%.

39 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer has a 1,2-glycol bond content of at least 2.0 mol%.

40 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer has a 1,2-glycol bond content of at least 2.1 mol%.